

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 RSR-01 IGA-02 SCI-06

/121 W

----- 039545

R 131240 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1249

USAEC GERMANTOWN MD

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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DEPT PASS COMMERCE AND EXIM BANK

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TECH, AR

SUBJ: CORDOBA NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT

1. AS ADDRESSEES HAVE PROBABLY SURMISED, NO DECISION WAS MADE ON CORDOBA NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT PRIOR TO ARGENTINE ELECTION HELD MARCH 11. PRE- ELECTION CONTACTS WITH TOP- LEVEL MILITARY OFFICIALS ADVISING JUNTA INDICATED ONE COURSE OF ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION WAS DECISION FOLLOWING ELECTION, COUPLED WITH CONSULTATION WITH APPARENT PRESIDENT-ELECT TO HELP ASSURE WILLINGNESS OF NEW GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT DECISION, IF MADE.

2. WHILE DECISION ON NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE PRIORITY CONCERN OF LAME- DUCK GOVERNMENT AT THIS JUNCTURE, INCENTIVE TO REACH DECISION ARISES FROM FACT THAT SOME, IF NOT ALL, OF PRESENT OFFERS EXPIRE ON MARCH 15. AS MAY BE RECALLED, EXTENSION OF BIDS TO THIS DATE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTED BY CNEA WHEN DEC 31, 1972 DEADLINE PASSED WITHOUT DECISION. BOTH US BIDDERS EXTENDED BIDS TO MARCH 15 AS REQUESTED BY CNEA. LENGTH OF EXTENSIONS OFFERED BY OTHER BIDDERS NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY, BUT IN VIEW REQUEST FOR EXTENSION TO MARCH 15, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE EXTENSIONS OF OTHER BIDDERS GO BEYOND THIS DATE.

3. AT LEAST ONE US BIDDER (ESTINGHOUSE) INDICATED FURTHER EXTENSION WOULD MEET RESISTANCE IN CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS. WHILE BID CONTAINS ESCALATION PROVISIONS, THESE MAY NOT FULLY COVER COST INCREASES SINCE INITIAL BID DATE OF JUNE 1972. THUS, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT FURTHER EXTENSIONS OF BIDS WOULD BE AT NEW AND, FROM CNEA VIEWPOINT, LESS FAVORABLE TERMS AND PRICES.

4. PUBLIC DEBATE ON SUBJECT HAS ALSO CONTINUED UNABATED, WITH PRO- NATURAL URANIUM VIEWPOINT CONTINUING TO OBTAIN LION' S SHARE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC SUPPORT. WITH PERONIST VICTORY, POSSIBILITY OF THIS GOVERNMENT MAKING DECISION WHICH WOULD STICK APPEARS REMOTE BUT, ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, ACTION IS STILL POSSIBLE PRIOR MARCH 15.
LODGE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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To: BONN
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EC BRUSSELS
OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USAEC GERMANY
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